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General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session
Agenda items 66, 68, 85, 117 and 120

Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

Promotion and protection of human rights

The rule of law at the national and international levels

Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations

Strengthening of the United Nations system

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Letter dated 21 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the address by the Council of the Heads of States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States to the peoples of the Commonwealth and the world community on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the start of the Great Patriotic War, 1941-1945 (see annex).

I should be grateful if it could be circulated as a document of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 66, 68, 85, 117 and 120, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sirodjidin **Aslov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 21 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Address by the Heads of States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States to the peoples of the States members of the Commonwealth and the world community on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the start of the Great Patriotic War, 1941-1945

Seventy years ago, on 22 June 1941, Nazi Germany and its Axis allies treacherously attacked the Soviet Union. It was the beginning of the Great Patriotic War, the most terrible ordeal in the history of the peoples of the multinational Soviet State. They came through that ordeal with honour.

Rising in defence of their homeland, our peoples struggled with an insidious and cruel enemy on fronts stretching from the Barents Sea to the Black Sea and showed the world the greatest examples of heroism, resistance and patriotism both on the battle field and on the home front. They shared all hardships and adversities equally, firmly believing in the justness of their fight, and together they survived and defeated the enemy.

The first day of the war, which was especially gruelling for those who bore the brunt of the Nazi onslaught, became the first step on the long road to Victory. We remember what it cost us and how much grief and suffering our peoples endured. As those dramatic events recede into the past, the stronger is our feeling of gratitude and indebtedness to all those who defended their homeland and whose enormous sacrifices freed the peoples of Europe from Nazi enslavement.

We recall with gratitude the contribution of the Allies and anti-fascist fighters from other countries, we will never forget the sacrifices they brought to the altar of our shared Victory.

We bow our heads at the memory of those who fell in battle, were tortured in concentration camps and Nazi torture chambers or perished from hunger and hardship.

The seventieth anniversary of the Great Patriotic War reminds everyone that this must never happen again and that all aggressors will inevitably meet with just retribution. We consider it important to pass on to our descendants the historical truth about this war, its tragic beginning and victorious end. The Great Victory is one of the major historical events uniting the peoples of our countries. The Great Victory is the highest spiritual value and a moral reference point for all post-war generations who were brought up on the ideals of friendship, brotherliness and good neighbourliness.

We, the Heads of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, call on the international community to unite its efforts to build and consolidate peace without wars, conflict and violence, on the basis of the noble purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, for the well-being and prosperity of all peoples and States.